Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. 09/742657 Application Number Request For 12/21/2000 Filing Date Continued Examination (RCE) Hidenori Nishikawa First Named Inventor **Transmittal** 2175 Art Unit Address to: Mail Stop RCE Hassan Mahmoudi Examiner Name Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 JP9 1999 0204 US1 Attorney Docket Number Alexandria, VA This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

RCE/2720

PTO/SB/30 (05-03)

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2

1.	Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicants does not with to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).  a. X Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.  NOV 1 9 2003  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
	ii. 🗵 Other After Final Amendment filed 10/14/03 Technology Center 2100
	b. Enclosed
	i. Amendment/Reply iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
	ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iv. Other
2.	Miscellaneous
	a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (i) required)
	b. Other
3.	Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
	a. X The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 09-0469 (IBM)
	i. X RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17 (e) in the amount of \$770.00
	ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 11/18/2003 JADD01 00000014 090469 09742657
	iii. Other 101 FC:1801 770.00 DA
	b. Check in the amount of \$ enclosed
	c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)
	WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.
Mom	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED  Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)   40019
_	e (Print/Type)   Michael F. Hoffman   Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)   40019
	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION
Thereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
Name	(Print/Type) Beverly Kehoe Shea
Signa	ture Date November 12, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 FR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Mail Stop** RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.